

The Mysteries of God finished :
O R A N
E S S A Y
T O W A R D

**The opening of the MYSTERY of
the MYSTICAL NUMBERS
in the Scriptures, by the Scriptures,
without the help of Human History;
never attempted before : viz.**

*Daniel's 2300 Days, 1290, and 1335;
with the time of the Witnesses Prophecy
of 1260 Days, and the Beast's Reign of
42 Months; and the last War made upon
the Witnesses, upon their finishing their
Testimony, their Slaughter, and lying
dead three days and an half, their Resur-
rection and Ascension, &c.*

*Job 37. 7. He sealeth up the Hand of every Man, that all
Men may know his Works.*

Isa 28. 21, 22. Isa. 5. 12. Psal. 111. the whole Psalm.

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THE
EPISTLE
TO THE
READER.

Reader,

THis that comes to thy Hand was a Collection for private Satisfaction, by way of Essay, to take an Estimate, whether the Scripture-Numbers might not be understood by the Scriptures themselves, without being govern'd by Human History, as generally those that have wrote upon them have been. And tho I have a venerable Esteem for Mr. Beverly, yet thought it strange that he should be so confident as to the Time he prefixt, since his Calculation dependeth so much upon Human History. But the first Sheet coming to the Hands of a Friend some time since, and by him committed to the Press, has been the occasion of this further Publication, with the Addition

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of

of the other Sheets : And if it may be a Motive to some Person better instructed in the Counsel of God, to improve this Essay to a more full opening of the Mind of God herein, it will be well ; however, the Author has this Satisfaction, that herein he has in some measure born his Witness to these great Truths of God contained in his Word, against such Atheistical Scoffers as are foretold by the Apostle Peter, 2 Pet. 3. 3, 4. to come in the last Days : Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last Days Scoffers, walking after their own Lusts ; and saying, Where is the Promise of his Coming ? For since the Fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the Creation. And also to those late Works of God in this Nation, so much forgotten and little minded in this day by such as profess his Name ; having much Satisfaction in his own Mind, in owning that which God himself has owned, and will evidence to the World he will own in his due time.

*The Mysteries of God finish'd: or,
The Mystical Numbers in Daniel and the Revelations, calculated by the Holy Scriptures only, without the help of Human History.*

GOD having given the Scriptures to his Church, *2 Tim. 3. 16.* for her use and benefit here on Earth; so the Times and Numbers (part thereof) have, are, and will be of use to her: Therefore the Angel, *Dan. 10. 21.* (for the opening the Vision, and the Confirmation of his Faith; in the Will of God revealed therein, *v. 14.* concerning his Church, and what should befall her for Times to come here on Earth) tells him that he would shew him *what was noted in the Scriptures of Truth.* And altho this part of the Word hath been most hard to be understood, yet (besides that common Advantage to our Faith, that the Times are set by God, not only in his own Eternal Purpose, but his revealed Will; which is a good Foundation of Faith to believe and expect accordingly) the more particular Knowledge of them as truly opened, must be of special use and help to our Faith, both to prepare for Suffering, and expect Deliverance. With what Diligence then should we with unbiaſſed Minds make our Applications to him that is the Revealer of Secrets? An Essay towards which followeth.

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First,

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First, I premise, *There is as sweet a Harmony in this part of the Word as in any other.*

Secondly, *That this Harmony, and the right understanding of the Times set, is to be found out in the Scriptures themselves.*

The first Number I shall begin with, is that great Number of 2300 Days, (a Day for a Year, as is usual in Scripture) *Dan. 8. 14.* Which I conceive includes all the lesser in *Daniel* and the *Revelations*, all of them being but parts of this; God in his Wisdom having so divided this Number, according to the several Circumstances of Providence the Church was to come under.

I conceive this Number of 2300 was headed, or doth take its beginning from the Year God translated the *Babylonian Monarchy* to the *Medes and Persians*, which was the third and last of *Belshazzar's* Reign, who was also the last of the *Babylonian Kings*.

1. Because I find no Times set in Scripture to begin before they are given forth, tho several a great while after.

2. The Question, *Dan. 8. 13.* is, How long is the Vision to give both the Sanctuary and the Host to be trodden under foot? and the Answer is, to 2300 Days: So that Time relates to the suffering of the Church then to come.

3. *Daniel*, Chap. 8. 1. dates it in the third of *Belshazzar*, in the Year he saw the Vision; tho when he saw it he was in *Shushan*, a chief City in the Province of *Elam*, which is in *Persia*. *Daniel* was in *Babylon*, call'd to expound the Hand-writing, when the City was taken, Chap. 5. 13, 30.

But

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But when *Darius* the *Median* had taken *Babylon*, and had so enlarged his Dominions by the Kingdom of *Babylon*, he, for the better Government of the whole (*Dan. 6. 1, 2.*) set over the Affairs of the Kingdom 120 Princes, and three Presidents over them, of whom he made *Daniel* chief; so that there is great reason why he should be in the Royal City *Shushan*. But this falling out in the third of *Belshazzar's* Reign, that he lost his Kingdom, *Daniel* dates the Vision that Year, tho he was in *Persia* when he saw it. God (*Chap. 7.* and in the first of *Belshazzar's* Reign) shewed in Vision unto *Daniel*, under the Representation of *four Beasts*, the *four Monarchies*, which should rule in those Parts of the World where his Church then was, and was to be in after-times, during all her suffering State, till *Christ's Kingdom* on Earth was to come, *Dan. 7. 27, 28.* God having before shewed by *Jeremiah*, *Chap. 25. 11.* the Sufferings of his Church under the first of these for 70 Years; the ending of that Monarchy, and the 70 Years was to be together in the self-same Year, which was also to fall out in the Reign of *Nebuchadnezzar's* Grandson, *Jer. 27. 7.* which was this *Belshazzar*. Now in the last of this *Belshazzar*, and the first of the *Medes* and *Persians*, God shews to *Daniel* how long the Church was to suffer under the three that were to succeed, and 'twas to be for 2300 Years longer, before the Church's Deliverance was to be compleated, and Peace and Righteousness established in the Earth, under the blessed and glorious Reign and Government of *Christ* and his Saints on Earth, *Dan. 7. 27, 28.* with *Psal. 72.*

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the whole Psalm. Well might these heavy Tidings cause his Countenance to change by the trouble of his Mind about this matter, as the Repetition, after, *Dan. 8.* in the Description of the three that were to reign the 2300 Years yet to come, as *v. 19, 20, 21, — 26.* caused him to faint, even to Sickness, for certain days, *v. 27.* I say, well might these things be so distressing to the Mind and Spirit of the Prophet, when he was expecting Deliverance to the Church of God. For in this very Year, the first of *Darius, Dan. 9. 1, 2.* he understood by the Books of *Jeremiah*, the ending of the 70 Years Captivity in *Babylon*, together with God's Providence in ending that first Monarchy, *Jer. 27. 7.* they being at a loss at which of the three goings into Captivity to head that Number before; for there were three goings into Captivity, as *2 Chron. 36. 6.* and *10. 17.*

The next thing is how to carry on this Time of 2300 Years, according to Scripture. And first I shall premise,

1. That it is not so material to enquire what of this Time is run out, in and under each of these Monarchies, (there being so much time allotted by Divine Appointment for the whole). if we can but find the Time carried on in Scripture, it is sufficient; for as God set the time then to come of the first Monarchy, in the 70 Years of his Church's Sufferings under it, so he sets the whole time of the three that were to succeed in the 2300 Years of his Church's Sufferings then to come.

2. That Histories do greatly differ, both as to Number of *Persons reigning*, and the time that each reign-

reigned ; that they rather confound than help in this matter ; and is one reason why Expositors have so varied, each following him whom he liked best, and endeavouring to reconcile the Scriptures to them, when indeed we should reconcile them to the Scriptures ; and if they speak not according to them, not to hear them. And therefore to prosecute my Design, I find we may reckon up this Account of 2300 Years (so many of them as were past at Christ's Death) by Scripture thus.

First, 21 Years after the 70 Years expired in the ending of the *Babylonian Monarchy*, which was the time of *Darius* his Reign, after he took *Babylon*, before *Cyrus* came to the Throne, who was foretold by *Isaiah* the Prophet, *Chap. 44. 28.* to be the Person that should let go God's Captives ; who accordingly did, *Ezra 1.* Now the Scriptures give us this account,

1. That the *Medes* and *Persians* were but one Monarchy.

2. That the Government was in the Seed of the *Medes* at the time when *Babylon* was taken, *Dan. 5. 31. Chap. 9. 1.*

3. That *Darius* was 62 Years old when he took *Babylon*, *Dan. 5. 31.* (there is some reason for the Spirit's noting of that) so that he might well reign 21 Years more, for that is but 83 ; and many live to that Age.

4. That he ordered over the Affairs of the Kingdom 120 Princes, and three Presidents, &c.

5. He, by the Motion of these Princes, made that Law, as firm as the Laws of the *Medes* and *Persians*, that *Daniel* was cast into the Lions Den by, *Dan. 6. 7, 8, 9, 10.*

6. Upon

6. Upon his miraculous Deliverance he made a Decree to own the God of *Daniel*, Chap. 6. 25, 26. and published it through all his Dominions. All these things must take up time : and *Daniel* is said to prosper all his Reign.

7. The holy Spirit gives us the Description of this Monarchy under the Ram : He tells us that the two Horns came up one after the other, and the last grew highest, which was *Cyrus a Persian*. How he came to the Throne, Historians differ : some say by Conquest, this could not be : others by Marriage, or some natural Alliance, which is probable ; but that is not material to me, it's sufficient that I find the Scriptures say that he came to the Throne.

8. Now these 21 Years, I judg, are the 21 Days, (a Day for a Year) the Angel saith the *Prince of the Kingdom of Persia withstood him*, Dan. 10. 13. For the better understanding of which,

(1.) In *Dan. 9.* after *Daniel* had understood by Books the Expiration of the 70 Years Captivity under the *Babylonians*, he sets himself to pray for Mercy and Deliverance, and hath no other Answer than the Vision of 70 Weeks, and the Division of them, *Dan. 9. 25, 26.* which Account was to begin from the going forth of the Commandment to build the City of Jerusalem : 7 Weeks it should be building ; and built 62 to the Messiah : and in the midst of the last Week the Messiah should be cut off. So that in all this there is no direct Answer to *Daniel's* Prayer for present Deliverance ; for the Temple took up a long time in building, through the long Death upon the Work, before the Command here spoken

spoken of for the building of the City came forth. Now as his Prayer was in the first Year of *Darius*, that is, not of his being a King, but his taking *Babylon*, and so being concerned with the Church of God, (for God in his Word takes little or no notice of Earthly Powers, but as in Relation to his People;) so when *Daniel* was even now going out of the World, he sets himself to pray again, in *Chap. 10.* which is said to be *in the third of Cyrus*, *v. 1.* and has this for Answer, That God was not unmindful of his Prayer, as *v. 12.* and gives a Reason why Deliverance was not yet to come; *the Prince of the Kingdom of Persia*, not the Prince of *Persia*, but the Prince of the Kingdom of *Persia*, (i. e. *Darius*, who, tho he was of the Seed of the *Medes*, was Prince of the Kingdom of *Persia*) withstood him, that is, had not let *Israel* go, tho he had strengthened him in his Kingdom, *Chap. 11. 1.* Now this third Year of *Cyrus* might possibly be but the first of his absolute Reign; for 'tis like he might under *Darius*, being old, rule two Years before his Death, because 'tis said, *2 Chron.* the last, and *Ezra 1. 1.* that in the first of *Cyrus* he let *Israel* go; and 'tis probable that *Daniel* died in the first of his absolute Reign, *Dan. 1.* last, for he continued but to the first of King *Cyrus*. Now the continuance here cannot relate to his Honours that King *Nebuchadnezzar* advanced him to, *Chap. 2. 48.* for after his Death, if not before, he retired and lived obscure at Court, *Chap. 5. 11, 13.* Neither did the Prophet *Daniel* come out of Captivity, which it's like he had done, if he had lived to the time of liberty to return, being

a Man whose Heart was so engaged for the Good of the Church of God : besides, it hath been, that such as were to succeed in the Throne, have been in the Management of the Government before the Death of him that preceded, as in the case of *Solomon* : and *Darius* being 62 Years old when he took *Babylon*, must be 81 when *Cyrus* came to the Government, if he managed these Affairs the two last Years of his Life, as it's probable he did ; and 83 when he died, being the third of *Cyrus* his being concerned in the Government, but the first of his absolute Rule : and then he gives Liberty to the People of God to return and build the Temple. Now this Work, after they entred upon it, did soon meet with Interruptions in the time of *Cyrus*, that made the Decree for building the Temple, *Ezra* 4. 5, 24. But in the Reign of *Darius*, as *v.* 25. with *Chap.* 5. 1. in the second Year of his Reign, *Hag.* 1. 1. *Zech.* 1. 1. God stirred up the Spirit of his People to set about the Work afresh, encouraged from the prophesying of those two Prophets, speaking to them from the Mouth of God, and God disposing the Heart of that Prince to encourage it also, so that it was finished in four Years (*i.e.*) the sixth of his Reign, *Ezra* 6. 14, 15. How many Years this Interruption continued, or how many Years it was between the first Decree of *Cyrus*, when they laid the Foundation of the Temple, including the Years of Preparation, *Ezra* 3. 8, 10. and the Decree of this *Darius*, in the sixth Year of whose Reign it was finished, the Prophet *Zechariah* gives us an account, *Chap.* 1. 12. to be seventy Years ; for the seventy Years here intended,

ed, cannot be the seventy of their Captivity in *Babylon*, in which time they were to pray for the Peace of the City, and of the Place where they were carried Captive: For God promised *that in the Peace thereof they should have Peace*, till the time came of their return, according to Divine Appointment; they were to build Houses, to plant and to marry, *Jer. 29. 5, 6, 7.* without attempting to return to build the Temple, till the seventy Years were out: therefore in that time to build Houses in *Babylon*, and not God's House in *Jerusalem*, was no Crime. But the great thing the Prophets *Zechariah* and *Haggai* reprove them for, was this,—Consider, (1.) The Prophets were contemporary, and prophesied in the second of *Darius*, the time that the Temple-work is revived and finished. (2.) They tell the People, 1. That God was so displeased with their Fathers, and now with them. 2. For what he was displeased, *viz.* for minding their own private things, as Houses and Lands, &c. and letting the House of God lie waste. 3. The Effects, in blasting all their Labours, &c. (3.) He promiseth them that upon their applying themselves to the Work of finishing his House and the Service of it, he would abundantly bless them: So that the Prophets applying it to that time, we have reason to judge, that it was no other but the Interruption upon the Work, which was, as all apprehended, some considerable length of time, but are at great uncertainty how to reckon it, when the labour may be saved, and we at no loss in the thing, when the Holy Spirit hath reckoned it for

us. Now the Scripture tells us, that as the Work was revived after seventy Years Death upon it, in the second Year of *Darius*, so it was finished in his sixth Year, *Ezra* 6. 15. which sixth Year was his last, *Artaxerxes* succeeding him; in the seventh of whose Reign there is another Decree to beautify the House of God, and to provide it with Sacrifices, *Ezra* 7. 21, 22, 23, 24, 27. for this Decree relates only to the House of God, and his Worship therein. In the twentieth of whose Reign, another Decree comes forth to build the City, *Neb.* 2. 1. to the ninth; and here begins *Daniel's* seventy Weeks of Years. So that if this Account be right, we have a very plain and certain account of the time, adding the seventy Weeks of Years to the Death of Christ. I know it is the Opinion of most, if not all, to reckon otherwise; and indeed they cannot otherwise do, that go by History, which tells of more Kings reigning, and that some of these I have mentioned did reign longer; as that this *Darius*, in the sixth of whose Reign the Temple was finished, reigned in all nineteen Years, as *Helvicus*, *Junius*, *Alsted*, and others say; but whence have they the Account which we with so much Confidence take up from them? It's from no infallible Writ. They say also, that from *Cyrus*, including him, there were fourteen Kings reigned in the *Persian* Monarchy before it was taken by the *Grecians*; also that *Cyrus* in the nineteenth Year of his *Persian* Monarchy conquered *Darius* the *Mede*, King of *Babylon*. All which could not be: For,

i. The

1. The *Babylonish* Monarchy was to end, and did in *Nebuchadnezzar's* Grandson's Reign, *Jer.* 27. 6, 7. which was *Belshazzar*.

2. *Darius*, who was of the Seed of the *Medes*, *Dan.* 9. 1. was King of *Media* and *Persia* when he took *Babylon*, *Dan.* 5. 28, 31.

3. There were to be but four Kings in *Persia* after *Cyrus*, how then could thirteen reign? *Dan.* 11. 2. The Angel, for the help of our Faith, tells *Daniel*, he would shew him the Truth; and that there should stand up yet (that is, after *Cyrus*, for this Vision was in the third of *Cyrus*, as before I have noted; for the 10th, 11th, & 12th Chapters are but the continuance of the same Vision; for, as I have noted also, *Daniel* died this Year) three Kings, and the fourth shall be richer, &c. — and shall stir up all against the Realm of *Greece*, and here this Monarchy ends.

To sum up all that we have said, there is,

I. 21		Of <i>Darius</i> , before <i>Cyrus</i> came to absolute Regal Power.
II. 70		Interruption after <i>Cyrus's</i> Decree for building the House.
III. 4	Years	Of <i>Darius</i> in finishing it after they set to the Work again.
IV. 7		To the Decree of <i>Artaxerxes</i> to furnish it with Sacrifices.
V. 13		To that of the 20th of <i>Artaxerxes</i> to build the City of <i>Jerusalem</i> .

In all 115 Years, after the seventy Years Captivity

tivity in *Babylon* was out, before they began to build the City *Jerusalem* again.

In *Dan. 9. 24.* the Angel tells *Daniel*, that seventy Weeks are determined upon his People and the Holy City, to finish Transgression, to make an end of Sin, to make Reconciliation for the People, and to bring in everlasting Righteousness. Then *v. 25.* he divides them, that from the going forth of the Commandment to build the City should be seven Weeks, that is, before it should be built and finished, so long in building, 49 Years; and 62 Weeks it should be built, but it should be troublesome times, and so it was with the Jews, what by the *Grecian* Monarchy, and, after, the *Roman*; for when the Messiah Christ came, they were tributary to the *Romans*: and in the midst of the last Week the Messiah should be cut off, but not for himself, by whose Death the everlasting Covenant was sealed, ratified and confirmed, and all the Typical Sacrifices and Oblations to cease, as now no longer useful to the true Church of God: and great Desolation was to ensue upon that People for their Unbelief; which accordingly fell out, and was brought upon them by *Titus* Son of *Vespasian* some Years after the Death of Christ, as Christ also fore-admonished them. *Mat. 24. 15. Luke 21. 20.* Add now these 69 Weeks

69 Weeks $\frac{1}{2}$ 486 $\frac{1}{2}$
before 115

In all

601 $\frac{1}{2}$

of Years, and $\frac{1}{2}$ Week (for he was to suffer in the midst of a Week) which amounts to 486 $\frac{1}{2}$, unto the 115 Years aforementioned, and it makes up 601 $\frac{1}{2}$.

As

As to all the other Numbers, *Dan. 7. 25.* of Time, Times, and dividing of Time, and the same *Dan. 12. 7.* and the 1290, and the 1335; I conceive all relate to the Times under the Gospel: and in *Dan. 11. 31.* & *12. 11.* when 'tis said the Daily Sacrifice shall be taken away, and the Abomination that makes desolate placed in the room of it; and *Dan. 12. 11.* that from the time that this shall be done there shall be 1290 Days, that is, Years, as before *Dan. 8. 14.* the Sanctuary shall be cleansed, that the Purity of God's Worship shall be restor'd at the end of that time, and that blessed is he that comes to 1335, which is forty five more than 1290. As these relate to the Church under the Gospel, and God's Worship there, therefore not properly rendred Sacrifices, as *Dan. 9. 27.* but by way of Supplement; so I shall rather offer my Thoughts of them under that of the Witnesses prophesying, &c. only all must and do fall in within the time of this great number of 2300 Years; and from what hath been spoken to it, we may guess how long it will be before it will expire. There are 601 $\frac{1}{2}$ to the Death of Christ; and if we are right in the Tradition of Years since his Birth (for Divine Writ being finished a little after his Death, we have nothing else to go by) taking off the Years of his Life, which were thirty, *Luke 3. 23.* when he entred upon his Ministry, which he accomplished in or about the three Years or half-Week spoken of by *Daniel*: so that thirty three from 1686, there rests 1653, which

B

added

601 $\frac{1}{2}$	2300
1653	2254 $\frac{1}{2}$
2254 $\frac{1}{2}$	0045 $\frac{1}{2}$

added to 601 $\frac{1}{2}$ makes 2254 $\frac{1}{2}$, which last subtracted from the Capital Number 2300, there remains 45 $\frac{1}{2}$, the only overplus of *Daniel's* last

Number: so that I hope Deliverance to the Church and People of God is not far off, and all our sad Sight is but good Signs.

To what hath been said there is something objected, the which, with the Answers, take as followeth.

Obiect. 1. That this Calculation cannot be right, because it's said, that when the Foundations of this second Temple were laid, many of the Priests and Levites, and chief of the Fathers, that were ancient Men, and had seen the first Temple, wept; when others that were young, and had not seen the first House, rejoiced, &c. And if this be true, that it was so long before *Cyrus* came to the absolute Government, and before the Decree for their Return out of *Babylon* to build the House of God, they must be older than in reason we can judge men to live; and this first, Because they must not be Infants when carried into Captivity; for then they could not remember what the first Temple was. 2ly, The seventy Years of Captivity, and the 21 Years of *Darius* before *Cyrus* came to the Kingdom, and at least a year of Preparation before they began to build, with their own Age when carried Captive, which could not be in reason much less than 20 Years, is 112 Years

Years in all, which is an Age beyond what usually Men lived; and it's said there were many of those antient Men that wept, &c.

Ans. First, It's to be noted, for so it is in the Scriptures of Truth, that there was a threefold going into Captivity. The first, in the third Year of *Jehoiakim*, 2 Kings 24. 1. with *Dan. i. 1, 2.* which was the first Year of the Reign of *Nebuchadnezzar*, Jer. 25. 1. In this *David* the Prophet was carried Captive, and was but young, ver. 4. This *Jehoiakim* reigned in all 11 Years, 2 Chron. 36. 5. Then *Nebuchadnezzar* bound him in Chains, and carried him to *Babylon*, v. 6. and made *Jehoiachin* King in his stead, who reigned three Months and ten Days, and then the King of *Babylon* carried him and the rest of the Vessels of the House of God, and a great number of the People Captive, 2 Kings 24. 10 to 17. This was the second going into Captivity. *Zedekiah* was made King by the King of *Babylon*, and reigned eleven Years, as 2 Kings 24. 18. In the last of whose Reign, and the nineteenth of *Nebuchadnezzar's*, *Jerusalem* was taken, (as 2 Kings 25. 8. with Jer. 52. 4, 5, 6, 12, 13.) and burnt with the Temple. This is the third and last going into Captivity; between which and the first, it evidently appears, that there were 18 or 19 Years, and the Temple was not destroyed till the last: So that the antient Men, spoken of in *Ezra*, might be of the last going into Captivity, and then there is no need of reckoning them older than 20 Years when carried Captive, which with 51 Years of the Captivity (19 being gone before) and 21 of

Darius, is in all 92 Years ; and it's very probable many might live to that Age. *Obj.* But how doth it appear that the seventy Years do begin at the first of these goings into Captivity ? *Answ.* Very plainly ; For in *Jer.* 28. 3. the false Prophet saith that the Yoke of the King of *Babylon* should be broken ; and the Captivity should return in two Years. In the 29th of *Jeremiah* the Lord tells them that were then in Captivity, that they should build Houses, plant Gardens, and take Wives in the Land of their Captivity, and pray for the Peace of the Place, for in the Peace thereof they should have Peace ; and in the 10th Verse, that after seventy Years were accomplished, they should return, and not before : so that it is evident, that the seventy Years in God's Appointment, did begin at their going into Captivity, that were then in Captivity, and not in their Captivity that was yet to come, which was not till the last of *Zedekiah's* Reign.

Object. 2. *Zerubbabel* who came out of Captivity, the Prince and Governour, did not only lay the Foundation of the House of God, *Ezra* 3. 8. but did also finish it, *Chap.* 5. 2. Now if the Interruption was seventy Years, he must be very old when he finished it, or very young, to be chief when they first came out of Captivity, and laid the Foundation.

Answ. We know they were reckoned Princes, or Chiefs, by their being Elder Brothers, or Heads of Families, whether younger or elder in Years ; and he might live (as doubtless he did) all the time of the Interruption, and be twenty or thirty

thirty Years old when he came out of *Babylon*, and be but ninety or an hundred Years old when the Temple was finished; for we read not of him afterwards. For *Ezra*, who came up the seventh of *Artaxerxes*, and *Nehemiah* who came the twentieth of his Reign, both governed and set things in order themselves, according to the Commissions they had. And what *Ezra* writes of *Zerubbabel*, is but Historical, of things past and done. But if this be not right, they that go by History must be much more out, who make the time between *Cyrus* his Decree, and the sixth of *Darius* his Reign, in which it was finished, to be at least 124 or 126; which is almost double 70.

Object. 3. is about the one and twenty Days, *Dan.* 10. 13. some reckon it in the time of *Cambyses's* Reign, and so part of the time of the Interruption upon the Work after the Foundation was laid.

Ans. But this could not be: For *Daniel* lived but to the first of *Cyrus's* absolute Government, *Dan.* 1. ult. He prospered all the Reign of *Darius*, *Dan.* 6. ult. and in the Reign of *Cyrus*, that is, to the first of his absolute Government, and then dies: For he came not out of Captivity, which doubtless he had done if he had lived, being a Man whose Heart was set upon the Work of God, and the good of his Church. Others take it to be the one and twenty natural Days of *Daniel's* fasting, as *v.* 2. But this cannot be, because the holy Spirit, that we might not be misled, reckons them twice by Weeks of Days, as *v.* 2, 3. that we might not take them for the same

time after, v. 13. of one and twenty Days, as usual in Scripture, a Day for a Year. And in what sense can we suppose that the Prince of the Kingdom of *Persia* could withstand an Answer from God of *Daniel's* Prayer, when the Angel tells him, that from the first day he set his Heart to understand, &c. he was heard? v. 12.

Therefore to conclude, What Persons Histories say did reign, which the Scripture knows nothing of, or the time they say they did reign, is nothing to me: for I cannot think that God in his Word would have been so distinct and particular in the Persons reigning, and their Time, had it not been for a Guide to us to calculate by. Therefore let others go by what Rule they please, I desire to abide by that Word, which I know is a true Word of Prophecy, and cannot deceive any that have the Mind of God in it.

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*An Essay towards the understanding the Time
set in the Scriptures respecting the Wit-
nesses, left in the Word for the Use and
Benefit of the Church of God.*

AND first, Why two Witnesses? First,
Either because the Scripture tells us,
That in the Mouth of two or three Wit-
nesses every thing shall be established. Two are
sufficient, and less are not; holding forth this
Truth to us, That let God's faithful Servants be
never so much reduced as to their Number, yet he
hath not left himself without sufficient Witness
in this World. Or, Secondly, To signify unto
us the Greatness of that Apostacy that should be
from the Truth, of which the false Church
should be composed, the whole Earth wondering
after the Beast, and that but few comparatively
should be found faithful in the time of the holy
City's being trodden under foot by the Gentiles.
Or, Thirdly, Signifying to us, That as the
Church at the time of Christ's coming was but
one National Church, therefore represented by
one Candlestick, *Zeck. 4. 2.* Now under the Go-
spel, the true Church of God, the Mystical Bo-
dy of Christ her Head, consists of several visible
Churches, and therefore is represented by two
Candlesticks, *Rev. 11. 4.*

B 4

Secondly,

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Secondly, Who are these Witnesses? *Answ.* Leaving them to their own Thoughts who take them to be either the two Testaments, or Magistracy and Ministry, or two particular Persons: I conceive them to be the faithful People of God, that have obtained Grace to hold the Truth of Christ in all Ages, in a faithful Adherence to him under all the Apostacies that have been made from him, and Oppositions against him; who have not loved their Lives unto the Death, for the love they have had to Christ and his Gospel.

Thirdly, The time of their Prophecy is set *Rev.* 11. 3. and is a Day for a Year. Now the holy Spirit sets the time of the Witnesses Prophecy by 1260 Days, and the Beast's Reign by 42 Months, which contain 18 Days more than 1260; so that tho these Numbers may begin together, they cannot end together; for the Beast's Reign being cast into Days, *viz.* Years, it contains 1277 or 8 (reckoning the odd Day of the Leap-Years) in which is 18 more than 1260. And I do not find any Footsteps in the Word, to lead me to look for the Beast's 42 Months beginning before the Witnesses 1260 Days, or any thing tending that way: but upon serious thoughts do find in carrying it on 17 or 18 Years beyond the time of the Witnesses Prophecy, a Beam of Light breaks forth, to a time by us generally overlooked; this not being understood: and it's this, that interval between the Witnesses Resurrection and Ascension; which is a cloudy and dark time, for they ascend in a Cloud.

Now

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Now that which led me to these thoughts are the 11, 12, 13, and 14 Verses of the 11 of the *Apoc.* where I find,

1st, That upon the Witnesses fulfilling their Testimony, they of Anti-Christ that are Dwellers in that Street where the Witness is finished, wage War against them to their Slaughter; and upon their Resurrection, after their lying dead the 3 Days and $\frac{1}{2}$, the fear of all those which saw them, wrought no other effect, than to render them thoughtful what might be the event of this,

2^{dly}, Between this and their Ascension there is an interval of time: For,

1. Upon their Ascension there is a great Voice from Heaven saying, *Come up hither.*

2. So that upon their Resurrection, they were not immediately advanced to that State: Nor,

3. Had their Resurrection those effects upon their Enemies as their Ascension hath. By the first indeed great Fear seized them, but by the latter they are affrightned or terrified, so as to put them upon acknowledging the hand of the Lord in his former as well as present Works.

3^{dly}, They ascend in a Cloud, bespeaking it will be a dark and cloudy time between their Resurrection and Ascension, hardly Day or Night.

4^{thly}, Their Ascension, with what attends it, compleats the second Wo, and ushereth in a third Wo quickly: then a quick work will the Lord make upon the Earth.

Now if these thoughts prove right, then to proceed as in pag. 31.

If

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16 If the Slaughter was in 1685, then add to that 18, it makes 1703 : but here we may be under some mistake in our reckoning from Christ ; for some learned Men that have taken pains about it, as the learned Mr. Grosse, &c. say we have lost two Years, and that our 1698 is in truth 1700.

Put then all these things together, and if true, how near are we to some great, yea very great things and Providences of God in the World.

And do we not see that notwithstanding the late Revolution, the late War and Peace, the Antichristian Power is in as great Ruff as for some Ages past : but when the hour of the Earth-quake shall come, a short work will the Lord make on the Earth ; for the term Hour always in Scripture denotes shortness of time, and suddenness of the thing. The third Wo comes quickly : God will hardly give them breathing time till between the 6th and 7th Vials. But upon the Earth-quake the Kingdoms of the World become Christ's, the third Wo coming upon the Heels on it ; which the Lord hasten.

Fourthly, Their Work is implied in the Name given them ; they are called Witnesses. To make a Person a true Witness, he must have a full knowledg of what he says or testifies, 1 *Joh.* 1. 1, 2, 3. Therefore they are God's Children here intended, that have experienced the things they testify unto ; so the Matter of their Testimony is that, *Acts* 1. 8. to testify of Christ his Person and Offices, the alone Mediator, as revealed, opened and held forth in the Gospel, which is that upon which the true Church of God is built,

Ephes.

Ephes. 2. 19, 20, &c. the Temple not given to the Gentiles, whilst the Court and holy City is given to them to tread under foot forty two Months, in which time the Witnesses here intended are to prophesy and testify to those Truths, that others under a Name and Profession of Christ apostatized from, and intruded their false Doctrines and Corruptions, instead of the Truths and true Worship of God, *Acts* 20. 29, 30. *2 Thess.* 2. 1, 2, 3, &c. *1 Tim.* 4. 1, 2, 3, &c. *2 Tim.* 3. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. *1 Pet.* 3. the whole Chapter, and *2 Pet.* 2. the whole Chapter, the Epistle of *Jude*: all are prophetical of great Apostacies that would be from the Truths and Purity of the Gospel. Now, I say, the Work of the Witnesses is, to stand up for the Defence of the Gospel, and they shall do so for 1260 Years together, and then they are slain and lie dead for three Days and a half, that is, three Years and a half; then the Spirit of Life from God shall come upon them.

Fifthly, Their finishing their Testimony. This must either respect their Testimony it self, or the Time allotted to them, that is, the 1260 Years. I conceive the first is intended; for after or when they are upon the finishing it, there is a fresh War made upon them, in which they that make the War upon them prevail, so as to overcome them, and kill them, and then they lie dead for 3 Years and a half. Now how long time this War shall take up, is not said. And if the holy Spirit who had been so exact in setting down the time of 1260 Years of their Prophecy, and the three Days and half of their lying dead, had omitted a time be-

between both, the Church of God had been at as great Uncertainty, as if no time had been set. Therefore if we take the finishing their Testimony to respect their Work, then it is our Concernment to consider wherein this finishing part doth lie : And that I conceive to be in bearing witness to the Kingly Office of Christ. His Prophetical and Priestly Offices were first witnessed to ; and this hath been lately contested for, even to blood, in the late Wars in *England*, as the other had been before upon which this last War has been commenced. The Testimony hath been further confirmed in the Martyrdom of many of those concerned in the finishing of this Testimony. The Sufferings of the Church in these late Years have been carried on against her otherwise than in former Ages, in other Methods, and under other Names and Pretences (the Beast taking it upon himself to persecute them as Rebels, and not as Hereticks only) all bespeaking that the time of finishing the Testimony is come, and the War commenced, and it may be an overcoming, if not killing also.

Sixthly, Where is this to be ? *Ans.* It will be there where this finishing part of the Witness to Christ is born, for there the last War is, and overcoming and killing will be : And where they shall lie dead, and where they shall rise, when the Spirit of Life from God comes upon them. Now where shall all these things be ? The holy Spirit tells us, it shall be in the Street of the great City, *Rev.* 11. 8. not in all the ten, but in one Street ; and upon their Resurrection the tenth part

part of the City falleth, not the whole City at once, v. 13. So that in the Street or Kingdom where the Testimony hath been finished, there all the rest follow, and there the Deliverance of the Church shall begin, to an utter overthrow of all her Persecutors and mortal Enemies.

Seventhly, When shall this be? *Ans.* To know the beginning and end of these Times and Things, there are two ways of calculating. The one is beginning at the Head of a Number, so reckoning forward to its end; the other is backwards, as *Daniel* did, *Chap. 9.* beginning our reckoning at the end of the Number, and so reckoning to the beginning. Now by one of these ways, in God's time, we shall infallibly know. But to the Question: I suppose both ways may be a help to us now, and Scripture-Numbers have a Dependence one upon the other; and there lies the Harmony of them, when that is understood. The great Number, which includes all the rest, throughout the Sufferings of the Church of God under the three last of *Daniel's* four Monarchies, is that of 2300 Years, which I have endeavoured to carry on by Scripture to the end of it, within forty five or forty four Years, from the Year of our Lord 1686. There are two other great Numbers in *Daniel, Chap. 12.* one of 1290, the other 1335, which is forty five more than the other; so that altho they both begin together, they do not both end together by 45 Years. That they begin together is evident, for the 45th is the Addition of so many to the 1290; therefore it is said, *Blessed is he that lives to 1335*: for altho the Church's Deliver-

Deliverance shall begin at the 1290, it shall not be compleated till 45 more; therefore blessed is he that lives till that time: so that when-ever these 1335 Years begin, they end with the 1300 Years also. Again, the 1290 is thirty more than 1260, in *Rev. 11.* therefore tho they may end together, yet they cannot begin together. And because of this, Expositors have generally judged, that the 1290 in *Daniel* relate to the *Jewish*, and the 1260 to the *Gentile* Church, but by what reason I cannot be satisfied. Hence they begin this 1290 at *Julian's* attempting to rebuild the Temple; the reason of which was this, he had apostatized from Christianity, and restored the *Gentile* Worship and Sacrifices, and as an Affront to Christians, put the *Jews* upon sacrificing also, who told him that it was not lawful for them, but in the Temple at *Jerusalem*; therefore he orders them to build it, which they attempted to do, but could but attempt, for God by his immediate Power prevented them. This *Julian* began his Reign in 365, and reigned but three Years, so that this Opinion Time hath confuted: For add 1290 to 368, it makes but 368 1658, at which time they reckon'd the 1290 *Jews* would be called, but no such thing hath been: Therefore they expounded 1658 all these places which we read *Sacrifices*, with a Supplement, in *Dan. 8. 12. Chap. 11. 31. Chap. 12. 11.* to intend the Jewish Worship, which *Julian* attempted to set up in Confront of Christianity, to be the Abomination that makes desolate: for all or any of which I see no reason.

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reason. It is properly translated *Sacrifice* in one place, as *Chap. 9. 26, 27.* And this doth relate to the taking away of the Sacrifices then in being, of God's own Appointment, which accordingly were taken away, as Christ himself also admonished, *Mat. 24. 15.* by *Titus*——&c.

But the Abomination which makes desolate, I conceive is some Corruption in the Gospel-Worship, the true Worship of God: and therefore seeing we, as before, find the Apostle concerned so much in forewarning the Church by a Spirit of Prophecy, of what had also been expressly foretold by the Spirit of God; if it was expressly foretold, it must be written *some where or other*; and take the Apostle's own Exposition, *1 Tim. 4. 1, 2, 3.* Why may we not rather reckon this to be the Abomination to Astonishment, foretold by *Daniel?* and this came in the 383^d Year, when *Syriscus* was Bishop of *Rome*, and continued 15 Years; in his time Marriage was forbidden to the Priests: and in the 425th Year *Celestinus* was Bishop of *Rome*, and continued eight Years, he assumed the Temporal Power, as *2 Tim. 3. 1, 2, 4, 5.* and why we may not begin these Numbers here, I would be glad to understand. In the last of which I conceive Antichrist did make his first visible Appearance in the World: so that add the 1260 to 425, it makes 1685, and you 425 bring it to the end of 2300 Days, with- 1260 in forty five Years, or a Year or two, ——— which time I conceive is allotted to pour 1685 out the Vials, and to accomplish the great Revolutions in, that shall come upon the Earth,

in

in order to the possessing of the Kingdom that shall be given to the Saints of the most High; *Dan.* 7. 26; 27, 28. There is Time expressed, by *Time, Times, and dividing of Time*, three times in Scripture; as *Dan.* 7. 25. & *12.* 7. *Rev.* 12. 14. I find Time thus expressed but in one place more; and that is *Dan.* 4. 23. where it's certainly taken for Years; and by what Rule we should construe it otherwise in other places, I see not. And that in *Dan.* 12. 11. seems plainly to relate to a special time of the Enemies accomplishing to scatter the Power of the holy People; then all shall be finished, (*i. e.*) the Sufferings of the Church; or Deliverance shall thence begin, and bear date from the end of this three Years and half. In *Dan.* 7. 25. he tells who shall act this last part, compared with *Rev.* 11. and in *Rev.* 12. 14. how God even in that time will provide for his Church when the Devil pours out his last Wrath upon her, knowing his time is short: and what time this should be, except the three Years and half of the Witnesses lying dead, I cannot see, the time when *Babylon shall say in her Heart, she sits a Queen, shall see no Sorrow, Widow-hood or loss of Children any more*, having accomplished what she had been 1260 Days labouring at, the Slaughter and Death of the Witnesses, whom she hath now dead at her Feet: Therefore they make merry, send Gifts to one another, not knowing how near Destruction is at her Door; she being, like *Pharaoh* of old, but a Noise, and past her time. For I conceive the Witnesses cannot be said to prophesy when dead, therefore this time follows immediately upon the end

end of the 1260 Days of their Prophecies; which ending in 1685, according to the preceding Computation, at which time Popery came to be inthron'd in this Nation, accomplished the Slaughter and Death of the Witnesses; the time of whose lying dead, which was to be three Years and an half, being added to 1685, amounts to 1688 and an half, which was the very time of God's lifting up his Hand by his present Providence to save these distressed Nations.

I have already in this Essay upon the Scripture-Numbers shewed the 2300 Years was the time of the Churches Sufferings under the last of *Daniel's* four Monarchies, the first of which three did then begin according to the Scripture-Account, to wit, the *Medes* and *Persians*; 601 of which 2300 Years was to be run out in the Sufferings of the Church of the Jews, which ended in the Death of Christ; and in which time the times of the two first of the three was run out, to wit, the *Medes* and *Persian*, and the Grecian, and the *Roman*, the last of the four was in being, under which Christ suffered, and under which the rest of the times of the Sufferings of the Church under the Gospel-Dispensation should be accomplished. Now take 601 Years from 2300, and there remain 1699 Years, in which time the Rise of Antichrist, the Reign of Antichrist, and the Ruin of Antichrist shall have their Accomplishment: So that the Times set in the *Revelations* fall within the 1699 Years. Now there are two Numbers set in the last of *Daniel*, that is, 1290, to which is added (with a Blessing pronounced

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nounced upon them also that have their Lot in that Time) 45, which makes up, being added to 1290, 1335, the last number set in the Old Testament.

Now why may we not reckon thus : (For the Spirit saith in *Dan. 12. 4. Many shall run to and fro, and Knowledge shall be increased.*) Add to this 1699, the 33 Years of Christ's Life, and it makes 1732, which brings it to our common reckoning from the Birth of Christ. And take what hath been said for our Rule to reckon by, and we proceed thus : First, Take off the 45 Years from 1732, there remains 1687 ; the 45 Years being the set time for the Ruin of Antichrist, in pouring out the Vials, the sounding of the seventh Trumpet, and last Wo, and Accomplishment of all the Revolutions in the World, and setting up the Kingdom of his dear Son. Now take off the three Years and an half of the Witnesses Death, there remains 1684 ; take off from this 1260, there remains 424 ; how doth this fall in with the best Reckonings yet extant of Antichrist's Rise ?

But by this way of reckoning, we are wholly governed by Scripture-Account ; and the other by Marks and Signs, which have been of singular use in their times to the Church of God, and by which there have been such Discoveries made of that accursed State, by which the Faithful have been helped by Grace to suffer under (rather than imbark with) that Interest, in the Exercise of Faith and Patience, for the fulfilling of the Word, in Destruction of Antichrist in God's appointed time set in the holy Scriptures.

And

And are not the Signs given in Scripture of the approaching Ruin of Antichrist, not only Rumours, but Wars themselves? What Convulsions are the Nations in? and not only the Commotions and shaking of Governments, but material Earthquakes, the like never heard of, so great and stupendous in so few Years. These are all the fulfilling of the Word of God, could we but rightly apply them to the Word, and the Word to them, all fore-runners of that Mystical Earthquake, *Rev.* 11. 13. upon the Ascension of the Witnesses, by which our Lord Jesus will introduce and set up his Kingdom, prophesied of in *Daniel*: the first Introduction of it will be by the Ascension of the Witnesses, and that follows upon it from *ver.* 13 to the end of the 11th Chapter.

Now for as much as this is like to begin but in one Street of that great City, it may be necessary to enquire which of the Streets it is: for I conceive the understanding of this may be of great use to our Faith, both in his Word, and of his Providence and Works in the World, in his fulfilling of it. And however all are concern'd to make their due Observations, God extending the Signs of them more universally over the World; yet those whose Lot is in that place where these glorious Works of God shall have their beginning, are more especially concern'd and call'd to know them: and therefore,

1. It's the place where the Witnesses finish their Testimony; *Rev.* 11. 7. *And when they have finished their Testimony, (or, as some read, about) the Beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless Pit,*

shall

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shall make War against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

2. Where they are slain, there they lie dead the three Days and half, *ver. 8, 9, 11. And their dead Bodies shall lie in the Street, &c. shall see their dead Bodies three days and an half. And after three days and an half, the Spirit of Life from God shall enter into them.*

3. This is but in one Street, or in the Dominion of one of the ten Kings that had given their Power or Strength to the Beast, *Rev. 17. 12, 13. The ten Horns which thou sawest, are ten Kings which have received no Kingdom as yet, but receive Power as Kings one hour with the Beast. They have one Mind, and shall give their Power and Strength to the Beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, &c. Rev. 17. 8. And their dead Bodies shall lie in the Street of the great City, &c. and this Street is a tenth part of the City Babylon. For upon their Ascension, Antichrist shall lose that part of his Dominion or Kingdom for ever, where the Witnesses were slain, ver. 13. And the tenth part of the City fell, and in the Earthquake were slain of Men (or of Names of Men) 7000. So that none of these things are to be done and accomplished in and over the whole Dominion of Antichrist universally, but only in one Street or Kingdom of those ten that had given up their Power or Strength to Antichrist. I mean either the finishing the Testimony of and unto Jesus Christ against Antichrist by the Witnesses, or the last War that is made against them upon it, or overcoming, or killing, a lying dead, or Resurrection,*

urrection, or Ascension of these Witnesses; all these are to be transacted in one Street of that great City.

The next Inquiry then will be, which of the ten is it? for it is a Street, and a tenth part of the City: So that the Holy Spirit must be supposed to intend and comprehend those ten Kingdoms that gave their Power and Strength to the Beast, in *Rev. 17.* by and in this City here intended in the *11th* Chapter, and no other Kingdom or Dominion whatever. That it's but in one of these ten where these things are to be done: and altho it is said, *that they of the Peoples, and Kindreds, and Tongues, and Nations, shall see their dead Bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead Bodies to be put in Graves,* *Rev. 11. 9.* being here described to us in the very words the Angel describes the Subjects of Antichrist at large in *Chap. 17. 15.* yet in this *Chap. 11. 9.* it's exprest with a limitation, *They of them,* intimating thus much to us, that as these things were not to be acted over all Antichrist's Dominions, so it could not be visible to all; yet those that did see it were made merry by it, and did what they could to propagate the Knowledge of it, by sending Gifts and Significations of it as far as they could, *ver. 10.*

But to come to a more direct Answer to the Enquiry, which of the ten?

1. It must be in the Street where the finishing Part of the Testimony is born. It's owned by many that the finishing Part lies in bearing Witness to the Kingly Office of Christ more especially; and that it doth so, seems to be put past Contradiction

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diction in what follows their reviving and Ascension, Chap. 11. 12, to the end of the Chapter.

(1.) That Street falls, that part of Antichrist's Dominion is now for ever lost, *ver. 13.* for him to have any thing more to do there by way of Dominion.

(2.) A Declaration that the second Wo is past, that is, in what fell out under this Providence of the Ascension of the Witnesses; and that the third Wo contain'd in the seven Vials now to be poured forth, cometh quickly, *ver. 14.*

(3.) The seventh Angel sounds, and proclaims *That the Kingdoms of this World are become the Kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ, ver. 15.* Before their being slain, they testified that it belonged to Christ, as King, to be King of Saints and Nations, and put in their Claim for it in his Right, for which the Beast in *ver. 17.* falls upon them, &c. but now they are risen, they make Seisure in his Right and Authority.

2. It must be in one of those Kingdoms that made one of the ten; it must not be any petty Commonwealth or Principality that might own and be of the Romish Faith, and so be as truly Antichristian as any of the ten Kingdoms are, or were: for then it would multiply the Streets of this great City, and Sovereignties of Antichrist to more than twice ten. When the holy Spirit describes this City by ten Streets, and his Dominion by ten Kingdoms, we may include the rest in the by-Alleys and Lanes of this great City; for there are few great Cities but have many by-Lanes, Alleys and Courts, besides principal Streets.

3. It

3. It must be in some one of these ten, where the Light of the Gospel hath most clearly broke forth : for the Witness that is born, is that for which they are slain ; and it's call'd *the finishing their Testimony*, which it could not properly be, were it not born with Evidence of Gospel-Light and Truth, as it is in Jesus. And that which follows their Resurrection and Ascension, further confirms it to us : for the Dwellers upon the Earth, those of the People, Kindreds, Tongues and Nations, that, when the Witnesses were dead, made merry, &c. upon this dreadful Earthquake that followeth their Ascension, are terribly afrighted ; and it hath this Effect upon them when it is acted, *ver. 13. they give Glory to the God of Heaven*. When the Judgments of God in the Vials, that suddenly after are poured forth upon the other Parts of Antichrist's Territories, have no such Effect, that still live under the Blindness and Darkeness of Antichristianism ; for they repent not to give Glory to God, *Rev. 16. 9. But blaspheme the God of Heaven, because of their Pains and their Sores, and repented not of their Deeds*, Chap. 16. 11. Upon the whole, what Kingdom is there of all the ten where any of these things have been done, if not in *Great Britain* ? or can be supposed to come so near the answering and fulfilling these Prophecies, so far as they have in the Providence of God been fulfilled ?

For first ; What a glorious Beam of Gospel-Light did break forth in the late Civil Wars in *England*, and powerful Witness born to all the

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xxx Offices of Christ, especially his Kingly? Was there ever a Cause so clearly stated between Christ and Antichrist, and so pleaded as then? Were not the Owning and Successes God gave to his People in that Day, stupendous and wonderful, not only in the Temporal Deliverances and Blessings bestowed upon them, but more especially in the great Work of Conversion? What Multitudes were turn'd from Darknes to Light, from the Power of Sin and Satan to the living God? How were the Ministers fill'd with the Spirit, and what a Ministry did God raise up both in the Army, Cities and Countries? how many Churches planted? May we not owe what we now enjoy to that Day, and God's Appearance with and for his People in it? What Discoveries of the Darknes that over-spread these Nations by Superstition and Human Institutions received by Tradition, that gendred to Popery, was there made by the Light of the Gospel that broke forth in that day?

Secondly, Was not Vertue encouraged, and Vice and Debauchery suppress'd? It was a shame to be vicious. *They that were drunk, were drunk in the Night.* Whilst Vertue and Sobriety walked in the Light, profane Sinners sought their Corners to act their Uncleaness in, and durst not appear openly wicked. What Reputation was this Nation in, revered at home, and feared abroad? How many poor Wretches reformed their Manners, and dissembled a compliance with the present Providences of God, until a turn of Providence gave them opportunity to discover to the

the World how they had dissembled with God and Man?

Thirdly, that which might put the Question out of doubt, is, that which followed upon these Works and Providences of God for the fulfilling his Word: for the Text tells us, *Chap. 11. 7.* That the Witnesses upon the fulfilling their Testimony, must undergo a severe War with the Beast, &c. wherein the Beast was in the Will of God (for holy and wise Ends) to prevail, overcome and kill them. In *ver. 3.* God says he will give Power unto his two Witnesses to prophesy 1260 Days, that is, Years. Now when they shall have finished or are about to finish their Testimony, the Beast raises this War upon them, which ends in their Slaughter and Death; so that upon God's Witnesses finishing their Work by way of Prophecy against Antichrist, he finisheth his Work against them in their Slaughter and Death, *Dan. 12. 7.* *And when he shall have accomplished to scatter the Power of the holy People, all these things shall be finished.*

How many Years this War shall take up before the Beast obtains his Will upon the Witnesses, is not said; but Time, by the manner of wording it, it must take; and all, part of the 1260 days.

And have we not seen these things fulfilled before our Eyes in this Nation since the late Civil Wars? Was not Satan early at work to counterwork God in his Providences? For when the Light of the Day was such as to discover and make manifest those Errors in Principle and Practice of this Nation professing Christianity, and gave,

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gave, in some good measure, the Form of the true Gospel-Church, (*Ezek. 40. 4. & 43. 11.*) according to Divine Institution; how did Satan sow these abominable Errors of the *Ramers*, *Adamites*, and *Quakers*, misleading Men both in Principle and Practice from the Purity and Truth of the Gospel, and Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ? And how did this Nation apostatize, and many Professors, not only from the Works of God, (*Psal. 106. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.*) but the Purity of Worship also? And how did God suffer this late Generation, in giving them up to their Hearts Lusts, to degenerate unto all manner of Profanity and Debauchery of Life, that no Nation professing Christianity was more like *Sodom* for all manner of Uncleaness, and *Egypt* for Oppression and Persecution, and to turn back to such a degree to the Antichristian Abominations, that nothing less than Popery it self was indulged and propagated in the midst of us, and prevail'd so far as to be enthroned, in so much that if such as profess the Gospel will make open Profession of it, it must be by a dispensing Power from him that was avowedly of the Romish Church; so that the Liberty they had, must be held upon the Tenure Antichrist saw meet to give for a present Expedient, and not upon Christ's Authority, upon which his Church is built? Now what a greater Death can the Witnesses to Christ against Antichrist be supposed to lie under, than such a Spiritual Death as this, to take what Liberty they have upon such a Tenure as Antichrist sees meet for his own Interest

Interest to give, to have Popery openly professed without any Opposition against it, to have such as openly encouraged it and propagated it, blest and pray'd for in that Capacity in which they were enabled thereto?

As God's Works expounded his Prophetical Word, so has not his Providence opened this to us? for no sooner was the late Generation restor'd, but did not they spend the time of their Reign in debauching the Nation, and suppressing the Power of Godliness, and carry on the War against the Witnesses by a Series of Persecution, labouring to bury all the late Works of God and Witness to the Right of Christ, in utter Oblivion, under the most opprobrious Terms and Criminations, and prevailed therein so far as to cut off the most excellent Persons God had made use of, whose Blood and Death was a great Confirmation to the Witness born? And how did others betray and give up that Cause of God in accepting Pardons? And how evidently was all this to the introducing Popery it self? for no sooner did K. *James* come to the Crown, but Popery was openly encouraged, indulged and profess'd in all Corners of the Nation, who came to the Throne in 1685, and was abdicated in 1688; so that he did not continue above three Years and an half, or thereabout, when God wrought this great and strange Revolution in the midst of us. Now when the Providences of God speak so expressly to the fulfilling of his Word, they ought to be duly considered: and altho I know Persons may reasonably be under great Hesi-
tions

tions of Mind from the Consideration of so little hitherto following this late Revolution, that looks like what is to succeed the Restoration of the Witnesses; upon which account I offer these things to Consideration.

Rev. 11. 11. *And after three Days and an half, the Spirit of Life from God entred into them: by virtue of which they are raised to stand upon their Feet; and the Fear that befalls them that see them, doth not possess them till they are upon their Feet.* And is there not a strange Fear (unaccountably) has befallen many? There must be something of a Finger of God in this: however, here is nothing but a Fear befalling them till ver. 12. till the great Voice from Heaven comes, saying to them, *Come up hither.* Here is an Interval of time between their Resurrection and Ascension, and I suppose it is the 17 or 18 Years of the Beasts 42 Months, which run beyond the Witnesses 1260 Years of their Prophécy. But no sooner doth this Voice come, than it's obeyed; they ascend, but it's in a Cloud, yet so as their Enemies behold it. What this Voice is, and what is meant by the Cloud, is worthy to be attended to: however, they have Enemies, and they remain so till their Ascension; so that all the Opposition is no Contradiction, but seems rather to be a Confirmation.

Upon their Ascension into Heaven there are great Appearances of God against all of Antichrist in that Street or Nation where those things are wrought; for that Part or Street of the City falls by a terrible Earthquake, so that

that it shall for ever be lost to the Antichristian State, so as to retain any thing Antichristian by Law from that time, but not till then. Another Effect of the Earthquake, is the fall of so many Names of Men; that till then will be continued, and then shall cease for ever.

A third is, the Remnant shall be so afrighted as to give Glory to God: as Judgment to some, so Mercy to others will follow these Providences of God in the Nation. And it is not the Name or Greatness of any can secure them from the Judgment: nay, they seem to be Men of the greatest Figure that are like to meet with it; and it would do well if Men would but timely consider, what is the procuring Cause, what it is that will expose them in that day, their adhering to what is Antichristian, and Enmity to such as witness against it; and by how much there is reason to believe they are near, even at the door: for if it be not, then all the sad Tragedy of the War, with an overcoming of, and Slaughter of the Witnesses, is still to be acted: and if we should indulge our selves, and transfer it to some other part of the World, can we think to live at ease when the Devil in such Wrath is making his last Efforts against the Church of God, *Rev. 12. 12, 17*? No certainly, it may fare little better with us, than it did with the Protestants in *France*, when these things were acting lately in *England*; or if otherwise, where is that Fellowship with the Church of God, and that Frame of Mind to dispose aright thereto, to cast things of this nature out of our Thoughts, without

out any expectation of their fulfilling, or due waiting upon God in order thereto? It's certainly of dangerous Consequence; it's as tolerable to think the World never had a Beginning, as to think it shall never end; to think there shall be no Judgment-day at last, as to think Antichrist shall not be judged here: for God hath spoken both the one and the other; and his Word will speak and not lie in his appointed time.

But what if it should be according to this *Essay*? then how near we may be to this terrible Earthquake, should fill our Thoughts with such Expectations as may put us upon due Preparations to meet God in it, and to take care how we cast Contempt upon any the late Works of God, or retain any thing of Antichrist, or Enmity to any that would witness to the Coming and Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, but bless God for the Counsel he has given us in flying from the Wrath that is coming, *Rev. 18. 4. Psal. 2. the whole Psalm.* Be wise now therefore, O ye Kings; be instructed, ye Judges of the Earth. Serve the Lord with Fear, and rejoice with Trembling; Kiss the Son lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his Wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their Trust in him.

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POSTSCRIPT.

NOW if the finishing Part of the Testimony of the Witnesses was born in the late Appearances of God in these Nations, and the War that was to follow upon it, was also accomplished in what has followed with their Slaughter and Resurrection, then it necessarily brings us to the ending of the 1260 Years of the Witnesses Prophecy, in the Year 1685, at which time there was 45 Years of the 2500 to come; then from 1685, to 1693, there are 8 Years, which taken from 45, there remain 37 Years for the great Revolutions and Works of God to be accomplished, in the setting up the visible Kingdom of Christ and his Saints in the World, which shall continue till the great Sabbatism, or the 1000 Years take place, and the Restitution of all things come, which is supposed will begin when the 6000 Years of the first Ages of the World are run out. And altho this shall be the top of all Glory here below, yet the peaceable State of the Church, from the end of the two thousand three hundred Years, to the beginning of the 1000, shall be very glorious, blessed and desirable; for then shall that blessed Promise be fulfilled, *Psal. 72. 4. 5. 6. 7. He shall judge the poor of the People, he shall save the Children of the Needy, and shall break in pieces the Oppressor. They shall fear thee as long as the Sun and*

and Moon endure, throughout all Generations. He shall come down like Rain upon the mown Grass; as Showers that water the Earth. In his days shall the Righteous flourish; and abundance of Peace as long as the Moon endureth. The whole Psalm.

Now what altho we see not these yet, the Witnelles are not yet ascended, the last Wo is not yet, or Vials poured fourth, the seventh Angel having not yet sounded; but we see the Dwellers on the Earth in great Fear and Consternation, we see strange and dark Providences upon us, we see little Faith in the Earth, as to the Kingdom and Coming of Christ, *Luke 18. v. 1, to 8. read the words; we see the Nations engaged in Wars, and great Desolations in the Earth, as if God would make thin the Inhabitants thereof. But all these are but the preparatory Work to the setting up that blessed Kingdom of Christ, and Deliverance of his Church. The pulling down and removing what stands in the way, is Work more proper for Labourers than Artificers; and when God hath done that part of his Work proper for such Instruments that are active in the highest degree of the Pravity and Degeneracy of the Human Nature by Sin, eating their own Flesh, and drinking their own Blood, as sweet Wine, Isa. 49. 26. Rev. 20. then the Lord by his Spirit will lift up a Standard, and to it shall be the gathering of his anointed Ones, a People spirited from and for himself, Isa. 59. 18, 19, 20, 21. the whole Chapter. And they shall build the old Wastes, and they shall raise up the former Desolations, &c. Isa. 61. read the whole Chapter. Byt this, I suppose,*
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will not be till the Ascension of the Witnesses, in Obedience to the Voice from Heaven, saying unto them, *Come up hither*, which they shall understand, however unintelligible it may be to others: for they ascend to Heaven in a Cloud, yet so as in their Ascension their Enemies may behold them, *Rev. 11. 12.* And then comes that terrible mystical Earthquake, which all the material ones were but the Forerunners and Premonitors of: and then will this Kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ, have its expeditious advances in the World, and this Stone shall become a Mountain that shall fill the whole Earth.

Object. But this seems to confine the Witnesses to a few of the People of God, and Professors of Christ, who are resident in divers parts of the World besides these Islands. And to exclude them from any part of the Witness born, at least the finishing Part, *Rev. 11. 7.* or of being concerned in that last War with the Beast, as *ver. 7.* or in their being kill'd, or lying dead, and consequently in their Resurrection and Ascension.

Ans. 1. As to the Temple, that is not given to the Gentiles to be trodden under foot, *Rev. 11. 1, 2.* And the Woman clothed with the Sun, *Rev. 12. 1.* doth include all the Confessors of Christ, holding the Head, and the Faith as it was delivered to the Saints, *Jude 3.* which from their so doing, where ever their Lot is so cast, necessarily includes them in being concern'd and interested in the Witness born against Antichrist during his Reign yet.

2. It does not thence follow, but that in some part of the World, and by some Professors of Christ, there may be a more full and clear Witness born, than in and by others; this has been so evident in Fact as not to be denied: Antichrist's Kingdom, and the false Church, having by the Providence of God been extended as far as the Name of Christ has been profest; at least something Antichristian has been intermixed: and God has not left himself without Witness in any Age.

3. In Rev. 18. 1. we read of an Angel's coming down from Heaven, *having great Power, and the Earth was lightened with his Glory.* By this Angel it would be preposterous to understand all the Faithful that in any degree are concern'd in a Witness to Christ: for altho his Ministry is with that Light and Demonstration of the Spirit of God, so to unvail *Babylon* the false Antichristian Church, as to set her forth to open View to be *the Habitation of Devils, and the Hold of every foul Spirit; and a Cage of every unclean and hateful Bird;* yet at this time some of God's own People are within the Verge of *Babylon*, and are called out that they might *not partake of her Sins, and so of her Plagues,* Rev. 18. 4.

4. In Rev. 12. 17. it's said *the Dragon was wrath with the Woman, and he levels War with the Remnant of her Seed, which keep the Commandments of God, and have the Testimony of Jesus Christ.* The Dragon is wrath with all that will not list on his side, and embark in his Interest; but the greater the Witness against him, the greater Efforts of his Wrath they must expect.

5. To

5. To sum up all; I shall offer in Answer. Where God limits any special part of his Work to any particular Place, as he seems to do this part of the finishing of the Testimony against Antichrist, and what followeth upon it, to one Street, there those things must be done and transacted; and if any can assign any other Street where the like Gospel-Light has been given forth, and Witness born, and the like Works wrought in the Providences of God fulfilling his Word, I shall acquiesce, and rejoice to behold any thing toward the Downfall of Antichrist, in order to the Deliverance of his Church, and Advance towards the Kingdom of his dear Son. But if God of his Goodness, shall by his succeeding Providences in fulfilling his Word, give any Confirmation to this poor *Essay*, then all Doubts will be soon resolved, and greater Light soon arise to govern us in our Expectations of what is coming upon the World; and how far these Isles are concern'd in those blessed Prophecies, *Isa.* 24. 13, 14, 15, 16. *Chap.* 42. 4. *Chap.* 49. 1. *Chap.* 60. 9. God knows how to apportion his Work to his People, if his People inhabiting one Street must be concern'd more especially in finishing the Testimony: God can consume all the ten in pouring out the seven Vials, by which Antichrist shall be ruined; which God hasten in his time.

I say, God knows how to lay out his own Work, and set out to his People their proper Parts, as they are by his Providence disposed in the several Countries and Kingdoms, in and over which Antichrist has extended his Kingdom,

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dom, which has been first or last, almost, if not altogether, over all Parts where the Name of Christ has been profess'd : for as Christ's Kingdom is to be universal, *Dan. 2. 44, 45. That Stone that is cut out of the Mountain without Hands, is to break in pieces the Gold, Silver, Brass, Iron and Clay :* which is the Kingdom of Christ, *Dan. 7. 14, 27.* and shall not pass away to another People : So Antichrist to anticipate the Purposes of God, has endeavoured to be before hand, to get the Kingdoms universally into his Hand ; and God for wise and holy Ends, in the fulfilling his Word, has permitted him (as to all human Apprehensions) to have attained his Desire, *Rev. 13. 4, 7, 8, 9. Who is able to make War with the Beast ?*

And yet in all his Reign, God has never left himself without a Witness, sometimes under greater Obscurity, and in some Places more powerful. But the finishing Part is said to be *but in one Street ;* as has been already said, and all that follows upon that, the last War, Slaughter, lying dead, Resurrection, Ascension, and Downfal of that Street by the terrible Earthquake, which fills up the second Wo, the third following quickly upon the sounding of the seventh Trumpet, the Judgments of which third

Wo are extended to the whole Dominion of Antichrist, in Christ taking to himself his great Power, and reigning over all those Kingdoms where Antichrist had reigned, yea and *from Sea to Sea, and from the River to Ends of the Earth ;* that is, over all Kingdoms,
both

both small and great, under the whole Heavens; as Dan. 7. 14, 27.

Now whatever others Thoughts have been, and how much soever hath been wrote upon it, that several of the seven Vials have been already poured out, much of which I have perused, yet without any Satisfaction that it is so: for all the three Woes contain something of God's Wrath upon Antichrist, but the pouring it out in its Fulness will be under the seven Vials; the Effects prove it; for, under the Wrath contained in this last Trumpet, he loses his Kingdom wholly, and Christ's Kingdom takes place.

In *Rev. 15. 1.* John receives the Vision of the seven Angels which have the seven last Plagues, (that is, to whom the Execution of them was committed, as in the *16th. Chapter, &c.*) Now these seven last Plagues are contain'd in the seven Golden Vials given to them, as *ver. 7.* How these blessed Instruments are qualified, from whence they come, and are furnished for this great Work to fulfil the Wrath of God upon Antichrist; how the Church of God is affected with it, as *ver. 2, 3, 4.* this Chapter is spent in the Description of it; the Effects of this Wrath upon Antichrist follow upon pouring out the Vials, *Chap. 16, &c.* Now what these Plagues should be but the seven Thunders, I cannot apprehend, which were to be sealed up to the time of the Execution, *Rev. 10. 4.* for this mighty Angel swears, *&c.* that where these seven Thunders speak in their Execution, *Time shall be no more*, that is, of Antichrist's Kingdom, for that must be meant; for the

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the Kingdom of Christ then takes place, *ver. 6.* and in *ver. 7.* that when the seventh Angel shall sound, the Mysteries of God shall be finished, the Mystery of his Providences in the Reign and Ruin of Antichrist, and of the Sufferings and Salvations of his Church; and the Mystery of the Kingdom of Christ taking place of the Mystery of the Kingdom of Antichrist: So that if these Vials of God's Wrath are not to be poured out till the seventh Angel sounds, then it must be after the finishing the Testimony, and what follows to the Downfal of the first Street; for he sounds not till the tenth part of the City is fallen; and in these seven Vials is filled up the Wrath of the third Wo.

In 2 *Thess. 2. 8.* the Apostle tells us, *God will smite her with a Consumption by the Spirit of his Momb, before he will strike her dead by the Brightness of his Coming:* So that what things those holy Men that have wrote upon the pouring out of so many of the Vials already, rather was but the Wrath contained in the two first Woes, the Effects of which upon Antichrist has been a Consumption that seized her by that Gospel-Light that has broke forth in these latter Ages, by which there has been a great Reformation in some Nations, but little true Conversion from Antichrist to the Kingdom of Christ in any, as a Nation: So that the Question is not so much whether Antichrist has not lost ground, as where is the Kingdom of Christ really set up, which takes place immediately upon the Fall of Antichrist: There *must not be a Stone of Babylon laid for a Foundation*

dation or Corner-Stone in this Building.

Now if our Lot be cast in the Days immediately preceding the Ascension of the Witnesses, what may not we expect? And if any object, *Was there ever such a cloudy Day?* The Answer is, they ascend in a Cloud: but when that Voice comes from Heaven saying, *Come up hither*; then these things will be better understood: which Lord hasten in his time.

And if it be so from what has been said, that altho God's Witnesses in these Islands shall be honoured with this first Appearances and Fall of one Street; yet there are the seven Vials to be poured forth, in the Execution of which there will be Work for all God's Witnesses to take their Part in fulfilling the Will of God in the Downfal of Antichrist.

F I N I S.